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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/534,059	10/06/2005	Kevin Jeffrey Kittle	123857	2722

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EXAMINER

PARKER, FREDERICK JOHN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1762

DATE MAILED: 10/16/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/534,059

Applicant(s)

KITTLE ET AL.

Examiner

Frederick J. Parker

Art Unit

1762

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 49-96 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 49,54,56,63,73,74,80-84,94 and 96 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 50-53,55,57-62,64-72,75-79,85-93 and 95 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8-8-05.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. The title is too generic and not descriptive of the inventive method.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 69-74,87 are objected to because of the following informalities: (1) claims 69-71, “dc” should be capitalized, e.g. “DC” ; (2) claims 72-74; “such” should be deleted since it is unclear to what the term refers; (3) claim 87, lines 1-2 appear to be missing words because “in the or each powder” makes no sense. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 49,54,56,63,73,74,80-84,94 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

- Claim 49 is vague and indefinite because applying a voltage to the chamber as written is inconsistent with carrying out the process “without ionization or corona effects”.

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- Claim 54 is vague and indefinite because the plastic comprising a conductive additive appears to contradict the limitation of a non- or poorly conductive substrate of claim 49, on which the claim depends.
- Claim 56 is vague and indefinite because the relative term “highly” does not convey the intended degree of insulating behavior of the plastic material.
- Claim 63: “plastics material” lacks antecedent basis.
- Claims 73-74, 80-84 are vague and indefinite because each claim contains groups of times, thicknesses, or voltages, each group having members which overlap or encompass other members of the group, so that the intended ranges are unclear and confusing.
- Claim 94 is vague and indefinite because the relative phrase “low-bake” does not convey the intended composition or its properties.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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7. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

8. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

9. Claim 96 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Pletcher US 5714007.

Pletcher teaches powder coating dielectric substrates by exposure to a triboelectrically charged powder cloud and then electrostatically applying oppositely charged particles onto the charged substrates to form coated substrates (col. 2, 40 to col. 3, 6). The powder coated substrate would therefore be the same as, or only slightly different from, the product by process of claim 96. The patentability of a product is based upon the product itself as claimed, and not upon its method of production. If the product of a product-by-process claim is the same or obvious from a product of the prior art, it is unpatentable even though the processes of making may be different. It is the burden of Applicant to establish an unobvious difference between the claimed product and that of the prior art, MPEP 2113.

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10. Claim 96 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Biller et al US 5877231.

Biller teaches to powder coat non- or poorly conductive wood substrates using tribo-charged coating powder electrostatically applied to the substrates. Col. 7, 8-32; col. 14, 1-11; etc. The powder coated substrate would therefore be the same as, or only slightly different from, the product by process of claim 96. The patentability of a product is based upon the product itself as claimed, and not upon its method of production.' If the product of a product-by-process claim is the same or obvious from a product of the prior art, it is unpatentable even though the processes of making may be different. It is the burden of Applicant to establish an unobvious difference between the claimed product and that of the prior art, MPEP 2113.

11. Claims 50-53,55,57-62,64-72,75-79,85-93,95 are objected to for depending from a rejected base claim.

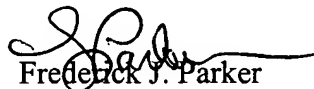
12. The prior art does not teach nor suggest the method of claims 49-95. The invention is a method for electrostatically powder coating an electrically non- or poorly conductive substrate in a fluidized bed, wherein a voltage is imparted to a conductive portion of the fluidizing chamber of the bed which allows the powder to coat the substrate, the process excluding producing ionization or corona effects in the fluidizing bed, so that a substrate immersed into the fluidized bed is continuously coated by tribostatically charged powder particles to produce the benefits on specification page 10, line 17 to page 11, line 14.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Frederick J. Parker whose telephone number is 571/ 272-1426. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur. 6:15am -3:45pm, and alternate Fridays.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy Meeks can be reached on 571/272-1423. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Frederick J. Parker
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1762

fjp